

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 L-03 HA-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7320

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E.O. 11652: NA

TAGS: PINT PINS EG

SUBJECT: DISPOSITION OF CASES FROM JANUARY 1977 RIOTS

REF: STATE 078553

1. IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT DEVELOP ACCURATE STATISTICS ON DISPOSITION OF CASES THOSE CHARGED IN CONNECTION WITH JANUARY 1977 RIOTS. LITERALLY THOUSANDS WERE ARRESTED AND TRIALS WERE CONDUCTED, AND STILL GO ON, IN OVER 50 LOCALES. ALL TRIALS WERE NOT REPORTED, AND THERE WERE INSTANCES IN WHICH ARRESTS AND/OR INDICTMENTS WERE NOTED BY PRESS, BUT DISPOSITION WAS NOT.

2. FROM ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION, IT APPEARS VAST MAJORITY OF THOSE ARRESTED WERE RELEASED RELATIVELY SOON. INDIVIDUALS CHARGED WERE INDICTED FOR SPECIFIC CRIMES (E.G. LOOTING, RIOTING, DESTRUCTION OF PROPERTY). PENALTIES IMPOSED RANGED FROM FINES TO IMPRISONMENT FOR 10 YEARS AT HARD LABOR.

3. TRIAL TO WHICH KOVNER REFERRING UNDOUBTEDLY ONE WHICH BEGAN FEBRUARY 5 BEFORE HIGHER STATE SECURITY COURT IN R CAIRO, IN WHICH 176 INDIVIDUALS ARE ACCUSED OF MEMBERSHIP IN, OR AFFILIATION WITH, ORGANIZATIONS ATTEMPTING

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OVERTHROW REGIME BY FORCE. ACCORDING PRESS ACCOUNTS, 81 PEOPLE CHARGED WITH MEMBERSHIP IN EGYPTIAN COMMUNIST LABOR PARTY AND 39 WITH BELONGING TO EGYPTIAN COMMUNIST PARTY. BOTH ARE ILLEGAL. FIFTY-SIX OTHERS CHARGED WITH AFFILIATION WITH THESE ORGANIZATIONS AND/OR ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO FURTHER THEIR CAUSE. TRIAL STILL UNDERWAY; THERE NO INDICATION WHEN IT WILL CONCLUDE.

4. ACCORDING AHALI, OFFICIAL LEFT PARTY WEEKLY WHICH HAS BEEN COVERING TRIAL CLOSELY, ALL BUT 7 OF ACCUSED HAVE BEEN RELEASED ON BAIL AND ALL ARE REPRESENTED IN COURT BY ATTORNEY. EMBASSY WILL REPORT OUTCOME. EILTS

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Message Attributes

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